

Relative to the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS).

Existing law defines the term "beneficiary" to mean any person in receipt of a pension, annuity, retirement allowance, or other benefit provided under the provisions of law setting forth the definitions of the TRS plan. New law retains existing law, but changes the phrase "any person in receipt" to "the eligible recipient of" and broadens the scope of "beneficiary" to mean a person who receives benefits under any provision of law governing TRS, provided the beneficiary is a natural person or the succession of a natural person or a trust created under Louisiana law by a deceased member for the payment of certain survivor benefits.

Existing law defines the term "student" to mean a person enrolled in a high school, vocational-technical school, or a college or university, in a sufficient number of courses and classes to be classified as a full-time regular student under the criteria used by the institution in which he is enrolled. New law retains existing law, but adds the requirement that any such educational institution must be duly accredited or approved by the appropriate educational agency of the state in which it is located.

Existing law provides that any TRS member, who has taught the equivalent of K-12 classes at any U.S. military base, is eligible to obtain credit in TRS for such service, if credit has not otherwise been given. New law retains existing law, but changes the phrase "military base" to "dependent school", and provides that the TRS board of trustees shall determine whether the facility at which such classes were taught is a U.S. dependent school.

Existing law provides that the accumulated contributions of a deceased member shall be paid in a lump sum refund to the natural person or persons he has designated as his beneficiary or to his estate if no natural person survives the member. New law retains existing law, but changes the term "estate" to "succession".

Existing law provides that, if a member ceases to be a teacher, except by death or retirement, under the provisions of law governing the system, he shall be paid the contributions standing to his credit. New law retains existing law, but specifies that provision applies if the teacher ceases being a teacher prior to participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP).

Existing law provides that, in the event of death prior to retirement, the contributions of a deceased member shall be paid in a lump sum refund to the natural person or persons he has designated or to his estate if no survivor's benefits are payable. New law retains existing law and adds provision for refund of contributions where the member's death occurs prior to participation in the DROP plan and changes the term "estate" to "succession".

of TRS on 09/09/77 and who rendered service of an educational nature at Crippled Children's Hospital from 05/58 to 08/75, shall be eligible to obtain credit for such service, and the member shall pay a sum equal to the employee and employer contributions which would have been paid during that period, plus compound interest at the rate of 5% per annum.

New law repeals prior law which provided that any member of TRS who qualified for service credit as a permanent substitute, long-term substitute was eligible to receive such credit provided application therefor was submitted to the board of trustees on or before 12/01/78; and those members who should have received such credit without payment, but who had purchased the credit were eligible for a refund if application was submitted to the board of trustees on or before 12/01/78. (Applied to service from 09/01/28 to 09/01/62, for any TRS member who was a permanent substitute, long-term substitute and who on 09/01/70 had accepted and was included in the provisions of Act No. 116 of 1910 as amended, or Act No. 287 of 1946.)

Effective July 1, 1999.

(Amends R.S. 11:701(6) and (26), 728(F), 762(F), 781(A)(1) and (3), and 783(A)(Option 1); Repeals R.S. 11:728(D) and 729)